

WHAT IS CDF?

MISSION: The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection protects the people of California from fires, responds to emergencies, and protects and enhances forest, range, and watershed values while providing social, economic, and environmental benefits to rural and urban citizens.



The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) is an emergency response and resource protection department. CDF protects lives, property and natural resources from fire; responds to emergencies of all types, and protects and preserves timberlands, wildlands, and urban forests. The department's varied programs work together using ongoing assessments of the condition of natural resources and challenges of an increasing population to plan protection strategies for California. Department personnel and equipment are a familiar sight throughout the state with responsibility for protecting over 31 million acres of California's privately-owned wildlands, and providing emergency services of all kinds through local government agreements within 36 of California's 58 counties.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

CDF responds to more than 5,600 wildland fires that burn over 172,000 acres each year. In addition, department personnel answer the call more than 300,000 times for other emergencies including structure fires; automobile accidents; medical aids; swift water rescues; civil disturbances;



search and rescues; hazardous material spills; train wrecks; floods; and earthquakes. Because of CDF's size and major incident command experience, the department is often asked to assist or take the lead in disasters, including the Northern and Central California floods 1997, 1998, and 2006; the 1994 Northridge earthquake in Southern California; the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake in the Bay Area; the 1991 Tunnel Fire in the Oakland/Berkeley Hills; and the 2003 Southern California Fire Siege.



The Best Personnel and Equipment: CDF covers the state with 21 administrative units, 804 fire stations (228 state and 575 local government), 39 conservation camps, 13 air attack, and nine helitack bases. The heart of CDF's emergency response and resource protection capability is a force of nearly 4,000 full-time fire professionals, foresters, and administrative employees; 1,400 seasonal firefighters; 5,600 local government volunteer firefighters; 2,600 Volunteers In Prevention; and 4,300 inmates and wards. To transport and support these forces, CDF operates over 1,095 fire engines (336 state and 759 local government); 215 rescue squads; 63 paramedic units; 38 aerial ladder trucks; 58 bulldozers; five mobile communication centers; and 11 mobile kitchen units. The department funds, via contract, an additional 82 engines and 12 bulldozers in six counties – Kern, Los Angeles, Marin, Orange, Santa Barbara, and Ventura. From the air, CDF operates 23 1,200-gallon airtankers (*one is kept for maintenance relief*), 11 helicopters (*two are kept for maintenance relief*), and 13 airtactical planes (*one is kept for maintenance relief*).



The Highest Standards of Training: The Office of the State Fire Marshal, State Fire Training, and CDF Academy programs provide training education and certification programs to the California Fire Service. Through practical training exercises and classroom courses, every California firefighter is exposed to training



standards that have been approved by CDF and the OSFM, among the best institutions in the nation for fire training education. Offering more than 1,000 classes annually, State Fire Training programs reach over 24,000 students each year and have issued more than 100,000 certifications to members of the more than 900 California fire departments, including CDF. Each year over 2,000 CDF personnel attend the CDF Academy in Ione, participating in classes ranging from basic fire control to forest practice enforcement.



Cooperation Among Agencies: In a state as large and populated as California, cooperative efforts via contracts and agreements between state, federal, and local agencies are essential to respond to emergencies like wildland and structure fires, floods, earthquakes, hazardous material spills, medical aids, and even terrorist attacks. Because of these types of cooperative efforts fire engines and crews from many different agencies may respond at the scene of an emergency.

Enforcing the Laws: To enforce state fire and forest laws, CDF investigators determine wildland fire causes, interview witnesses, issue citations and set up surveillance operations. The Office of the State Fire Marshal arson and bomb specialists provide services to state-owned facilities, and local government fire and law enforcement agencies. Department investigators have a very successful conviction rate.



OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL (OSFM)

A part of the CDF team since 1995, the Office of the State Fire Marshal supports the protection of life and property through engineering, enforcement and education.

Preventing fires: The OSFM provides for fire safety where people live, work and congregate. State Fire Marshal staff enforces fire-related laws and codes in state-owned or operated buildings; adopts minimum building and

fire safety regulations for use in all occupancies throughout the state; licenses those who inspect and service fire extinguishers; regulates the use of flame retardants; evaluates building materials against fire safety standards; approves fireworks devices; licenses pyrotechnicians, operate the National Fire Incident Reporting System, (NFIRS); and regulates hazardous liquid pipelines that run throughout the state.



FORESTRY

CDF's mission emphasizes the management and protection of California's natural resources. This goal is accomplished through ongoing assessment and study of the state's natural resources and a variety of resource management programs.

Managing Timber and Fuels: CDF oversees enforcement of California's forest practice regulations which guide timber harvesting on state and private lands. Department foresters review 500 to 1,400 Timber Harvesting Plans (THPs) and conducts over 6,500 site inspections each year. THPs are submitted by timber landowners who want to harvest trees. The reviews and inspections ensure protection of watershed and wildlife as well as renewal of timber resources. Department foresters and fire personnel work closely to encourage and implement fuels management projects to reduce the threat of uncontrolled wildfires. Vegetation management projects such as "controlled burns" take teamwork between foresters, firefighters, landowners, and local communities. CDF manages eight Demonstration State Forests that provide commercial timber production, public recreation, forest research, and demonstration of good forest management practices. CDF foresters can be found in urban areas working to increase the number of trees planted in our cities or preventing the spread of disease by identifying and removing infected trees. A Native American burial ground in the path of a logging operation or fire may be verified and saved due to a CDF archeologist's review of the area.

